

# **Editorial**

**This issue was prepared as number 57, but has been completed nearly on time and ahead of number 56, so we have swapped numbers. The good news is that the real spring issue will be with you soon, and with issue 58 due in October, we will have caught up with our usual 3 issues each year. Apologies for the delays in publication. We are also bringing subscriptions up-to-date (see page 51).**

**The international aspect of this issue's title has been based on a mailing to our 40 current and past members outside Britain, requesting news and views, and to some members in Britain who have special a interest in statistical events overseas.**

The demise of a French government-funded research body whose honest independence proved too threatening, described by Matt Perry, has given rise to a new organisation in Paris concerned with Information for Democracy. They have been invited to write for a future issue of *Radical Statistics*.

It seems to me that this issue illustrates many of the concerns of *Radical Statistics*: a historical perspective on the development of statistical ideas, from Cecilio Mar Molinero with regard to Spain; an attempt to make explicit the social perspectives and philosophy that inform statistical modelling, as in Japanese socio-educational trends explored by Hidetoyo Teranishi; also as in determining the most appropriate information for research in housing and health, by Rob Stevens and Sara Hill.

*Radical Statistics* was affiliated to the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science (BSSRS) until it folded about 5 years ago after many years' useful work. It particularly stimulated campaigns in the fields of work hazards and food politics that continue today. Scientists for Global Responsibility (SGR) is a relatively new organisation, ideologically more diverse than BSSRS I suspect, but with potential for similar work. Philip Webber provides a personal view of its future concerns. A leaflet about SGR will be distributed with *Radical Statistics*, with details of subscriptions.

It surprises me that *Radical Statistics* has not had more material on statistical education in the past. Marilyn Frankenstein's approach and her wealth of examples of the political context of everyday mathematics might give rise to some responses from readers.

We do not often have MPs writing for us. Thanks to Ian McCartney for providing an account of the statistics of seasonal mortality.

The editor of the next issue hopes to include several articles on women in statistics, but she will accept other topics too (see inside back cover).

There is also more than enough in this issue to provoke readers' responses. *Radical Statistics* would welcome notes and letters, as well as articles in response to those it has published.

*Ludi Simpson*    June 14th 1994